

rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 771 and "nay" on Nos. 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT LEE
MYUNG-BAK OF SOUTH KOREA
TO THE UNITED STATES CON-
GRESS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome President Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea to the United States and his address to the Joint Session of Congress on October 13, 2011. His visit to our great nation is another significant step in broadening and deepening the friendship and cooperation between our two sovereign nations.

For more than 60 years an enduring friendship has existed between the United States and the Republic of Korea which has been of enormous economic, cultural, and strategic benefit to both nations. Our countries share common ideals and a clear vision for the 21st century, where freedom and democracy are the foundations for peace, prosperity, and progress.

During the Korean War the United States and the Republic of Korea forged a bloodshed alliance. Approximately 1,789,000 members of the United States Armed Forces served in-theater along with the forces of the Republic of Korea and 20 other members of the United Nations to defend freedom and democracy of the Republic of Korea from 1950 to 1953. Since 1975, the Republic of Korea has invited thousands of American Korean War veterans to revisit Korea in appreciation for their sacrifices. Currently more than 28,500 members of the United States Armed Forces have served annually in the United States Forces Korea to defend the Republic of Korea against external aggression, and to promote regional peace.

The Republic of Korea is among the closest allies of the United States, having contributed troops in support of United States operations during the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while also supporting numerous United Nations peacekeeping missions throughout the world.

As a Korean War veteran, I am proud to see that in the 60 years since the outbreak of the Korean War, the Republic of Korea has emerged from a war-torn economy into one of the major economies in the world and one of the largest trading partners of the United States.

The success of Republic of Korea is a shining example of the peacekeeping efforts and contribution made by the United States.

I would like to congratulate President Lee Myung-bak for recently being awarded the World Statesman Award for his leadership in furthering democracy, freedom, peace and human rights, on September 20, 2011, by The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an interfaith organization founded and presided by my good friend, Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

I applaud President Lee Myung-bak's many accomplishments, including his tenure as the CEO of Hyundai Engineering and Construc-

tion, Member of the Korean National Assembly, Mayor of Seoul, and as the 10th President of the Republic of Korea. Under his presidency since 2008, Republic of Korea has emerged as one of the key players on the international scene through hosting the 2010 G-20 Seoul Summit. Now with the passage of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, I hope that the economies of both the United States and Republic of Korea would continue to prosper as our partnership remains strong.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

The free trade agreement with Korea is of vital importance to America's farmers and ranchers.

Korea is the fifth largest market for our agricultural exports. But currently, America's farmers and ranchers face an average tariff of 54 percent when exporting to Korea. Similar goods from Korea enter our country at an average rate of only 9 percent.

Passing this agreement corrects that imbalance and gives us better access to Korea's 49 million consumers.

The Farm Bureau estimates that once the agreement is fully implemented, we could see \$1.9 billion in increased farm exports.

Every dollar in agricultural exports creates another \$1.31 in economic activity off the farm in industries like processing, manufacturing, and transportation. So the agricultural provisions alone have the potential to provide a significant boost to our economy.

That isn't including the other tariff cuts in this agreement, which the International Trade Commission predicts will add more than \$10 billion annually to our GDP.

Within agriculture, we could see dairy exports to Korea quadruple under this agreement. Fruit and vegetable sales would increase by 50 percent. And processed food sales would increase by more than a third.

Those increased sales will translate directly to more jobs—both on and off the farm. That's especially good news because workers whose jobs depend on trade earn 13 to 18 percent more than the national average.

That's why there is such tremendous support among the agricultural community for these free trade agreements.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support our farmers and ranchers . . . to support American jobs . . . and to support this free trade agreement.

REMARKS ON TRADE
AGREEMENTS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending free trade agreements with Co-

lombia, Panama, and Korea we are considering today.

I do not support these agreements for one simple reason: I remain completely unconvinced that they can create jobs in the short term. Job creation must be our principal objective. That is what nearly everyone in New Jersey tells me is their concern. Given the tough economic times we face and the high rates of unemployment and underemployment, we need to take steps to help create jobs now. In my view these agreements fail that job-creation test. Instead of advancing these steps that might possibly start producing some jobs years from now, we should be passing immediately legislation that creates jobs now, legislation that helps homeowners now, and legislation that helps the middle class now.

H.R. 3078, THE UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT, H.R. 3079, THE UNITED STATES-PANAMA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT, AND H.R. 3080, THE UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the pending free trade agreements (FTAs) with Colombia and Korea. I wish, however, to commend my good friend from Michigan and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, SANDY LEVIN, for his hard and effective work with the Obama Administration to improve them. Sandy and the Administration have fought hard to ensure improved market access for American workers and companies, all while insisting that our trading partners' labor protections be improved. Nevertheless, my experience with FTAs has been one of nearly two decades of broken promises and widespread domestic economic dislocation, particularly in my home state of Michigan. With our economy teetering on the edge of recession and the painful memory of millions of lost jobs, I cannot vote in good conscience for more free trade agreements.

With respect to Colombia, I am disappointed by the Administration's decision not to include the Labor Action Plan as a binding and enforceable provision of the FTA. Colombia has a well known history as one of the world's most inhospitable places for labor leaders. While the country was showing some signs of progress under the action plan, there is nothing to prevent Colombia from backsliding once the FTA is in effect and the plan itself does not have the force of law.

Although I recognize that significant improvements in terms of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade have been made in the Korean trade agreement, I rather unhappily believe that promises will not translate into reality. In short, I believe the United States is giving up far too much for mediocre market share gains in the short term. This agreement may well boost our exports to Korea over the next few years, but I am firmly convinced that the benefits Korea will reap in the long run—especially